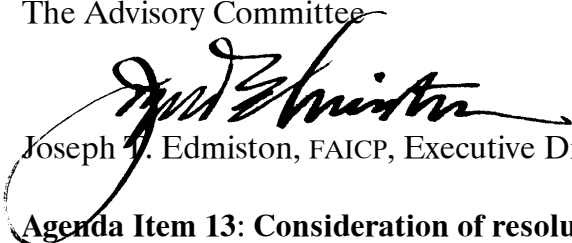


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date : April 30, 2007

From :  Joseph W. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the to the City of Malibu for project planning and design of an improved nature center at Charmlee Wilderness Park in Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the following resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the to the City of Malibu for project planning and design of an improved nature center at Charmlee Wilderness Park in Malibu.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code.

Background: The State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), in Chapter 10, Sections 79570(b) for purpose nature centers that are in or adjacent to watersheds and wetlands identified for protection. . .that provide wildlife viewing, outdoor experiences, and conservation education programs tot he public and to students. Priority is given to projects designed to serve children from urban areas that lack access to natural areas.

The proposal is for up to \$100,000 to the City of Malibu to hire professional consultants to complete conceptual plans, topographical survey, initial environmental documents, develop a working construction budget, and other needed preliminary analysis required for the development of a 3,000-5,000 square foot nature center at Charmlee Wilderness Park.

The City of Malibu acquired Charmlee in 1999 from Los Angeles County. The 537-acre Charmlee Wilderness Park overlooks the coastal slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains. Charmlee has many unique features including one of the best live animal, retile and insect displays in the Santa Monica Mountains, coastal sage and chaparral with ancient oak woodlands and over 300 flora species, fauna diversity (mountain lion, bobcat, ring-tailed cat, fox, badger, deer), over 200 avian species (quail, hawk, golden eagle, scrub jay, wrenit), threatened/endangered species (Santa Susanna Tarplant & Lindahls fairy shrimp), sandstone rock formations.

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Charmlee is open to the public seven days a week generally from sunrise to sunset. The Charmlee docents, operating in conjunction with the Malibu Parks and Recreation staff, provide leadership and lectures for a highly acclaimed wilderness education program using the coastal setting and a small temporary facility to bring the natural world to more than 2,300 students each year. The funding for a real museum and classrooms in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains will expand the curriculum and outreach programs for the only nature center on the coastal side of the range.

The City intends to use the SMMC grant product to prepare a more competitive application for the Proposition 84 nature center program. The funds will be used for a more detailed concept plan, initial environmental documents, topographical survey, fire department and American's with Disabilities compliance features, Phase I archeology and a more detailed working budget for the nature center. The design may include a small amphitheater, additional restrooms, permanent caretakers quarters, classrooms, meeting room(s), city staff and docent offices, and live and preserved animal displays. City staff will prepare a scope of work, circulate a request for proposals from qualified professionals, contract for and supervise the services needed in order to complete the project.